owners of minerals in onshore areas, including coastal areas, availability of the area for grant of mineral concessions can be notified by the concerned State Government.

(c) Since 1.4.2001, four proposals received from State Government of Kerala for grant of mining leases in favour of M/s Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited have been granted prior approval of the Central Government. Besides, three more proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining leases in favour of M/s. Kerala Rare Earth & Minerals Limited have also been received from State Government of Kerala

(d) Ministry of Mines is not aware of the existence of Mineral Development Regulation Act, 2002 for grant of mineral concession. Grant of mineral concessions for the minerals found in the onshore areas including coastal areas are governed under the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed there under.

Renewable Energy Vision 2012

†352. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have prepared any Renewable Energy Vision 2012 for achieving electrification target of those far-flung villages which cannot be electrified through traditional sources;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified these villages alongwith the names of villages which are situated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra;

(c) the number of villages of these States which have been electrified under this programme so far; and

(d) the number of villages which have to be electrified during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

up some important programmes for implementation during the coming decade. One such programme, initiated during 2001-02, is the electrification of the estimated 18,000 villages in the remote and difficult areas of the country through renewable energy sources such as solar energy, biomass and small hydro power. A target for electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the Tenth Plan period.

The Government has advised the states to identify remote villages for electrification through non-conventional energy sources. Several states have submitted partial or complete lists of such villages to the Ministry. The number of remote villages identified so far in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh for electrification through renewable energy resources are 1250 and 1226 respectively. The State of Maharashtra has submitted a list of 307 unelectrified villages.

(c) and (d) 120 remote villages in Chhattisgarh have so far been electrified under the programme of the Ministry. Projects for electrification of a further 200 villages in Chhattisgarh and 55 villages in Madhya Pradesh are under implementation. No project for electrification of remote villages through renewable energy sources has been sanctioned so far in Maharashtra. It is proposed to electrify 1,000 villages during 2003-04 in the country under this programme.

Withdrawal of subsidy on importing units

353. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI.
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is encouraging the establishment of wind farms, whereas Indian manufacturers of wind power generation units or machinery parts are competing against importers because of the subsidy they are getting on import of wind power units or machinery parts;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw the subsidy on importing units or machinery parts in wind power electric generating units;